



ELIZA GREEN / DAILY TITAN

The pathway between Juniper and Holly Hall at CSUF student housing.

March 11

JESSICA BENDA
JORDAN MENDOZA
Editors

Specific Cal State Fullerton students within the housing community have been instructed to self-quarantine immediately under possible suspicion of interacting with someone who may have contracted COVID-19, otherwise known as the coronavirus, according to an email sent from Dean of Students Hallie Hunt.

Certain CSUF students self-quarantined over possible exposure to COVID-19

In the email those students received, Hunt said, “The campus has received information that in the last seven days, you have been exposed to another student who may have been exposed to coronavirus.”

Multiple sources have said that several students are being self-quarantined, but the Daily Titan is unsure how many students are affected or what housing building or buildings it is. Those who received the email were instructed to stay in their rooms at all times and are prohibited from attending classes or visiting on-campus community spaces. They were also notified that the campus would arrange for meal delivery to their rooms and excuse them from attending classes. One of the emails sent to

quarantined students was received at 1:27 a.m. this morning. President Virjee sent a campus-wide email over nine hours later with no mention of the quarantine, saying on-campus classes will continue for now.

“Zero presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported at CSUF,” Virjee said in the email. “At this time, based on all the evidence and data collected in partnership with local and state health officials, our campus remains safe.” At 11:50 a.m., the university announced that they are reviewing all campus events, saying, “Any event with expected attendance of more than 100 poses additional risk.”

CSUF Greek Week was canceled, but no athletic events have been

postponed or restricted. CSUF softball will be hosting four teams this weekend during the Easton Invitational, which begins today.

Cal State Long Beach announced on Wednesday that all in-person classes are suspended until March 17, after which they will transition to online learning.

Numerous people took to social media, including Twitter and Reddit, to voice their displeasure with the university not closing the campus.

The online petition to close the campus has reached 7,000 signatures as of 1:30 p.m.

Hunt has not yet responded to requests for comment, and the president’s office said they will issue another statement about the virus later today.

CSUF will transition to online amid COVID-19 pandemic

March 12

JESSICA BENDA
KIM PHAM
Editors

Cal State Fullerton is beginning its transition to an online teaching mode in an effort to ward off the spread of the coronavirus, according to an email sent from the office of the president on Wednesday at 4:56 p.m.

CSUF is among several schools that are canceling classes in favor of online options, including its sister schools Cal State Long Beach and Cal State Los Angeles, as well as multiple UCs.

Starting today, all faculty members are encouraged to begin this transition. Audiovisual tools have been installed into classrooms to equip instructors and professors with the appliances they need to execute the remote learning transition.

There will be no face-to-face instruction on March 17 and 18, as a partially mandatory transition to online teaching will take place. This will serve as a two-day trial for faculty to prepare for a fully mandatory virtual classroom, which will be effective March 25 to April 26.

There will be no face-to-face or virtual classes on March 23 and 24, so that the campus can make final adjustments to deliver completely non-face-to-face instruction. Classes that were taught online before this transition are exempt from this mandate and will continue as scheduled.

Though classes will transition to online, on-campus amenities such as housing and food services will remain open. Specific courses, such as performing arts and laboratory research, will continue to meet face-to-face with approval from the respective colleges’ deans, in which the university will implement social distancing accommodations. Staff will continue working on campus.

Last night, an unidentified number of students in on-campus housing were placed under self-quarantine for potential exposure to COVID-19 at an out-of-state conference.

Three students remain under quarantine off-campus as of Wednesday 5:53 p.m., according to an email sent out by Jenni Brundage, Housing and Residential Engagement director.

“All of the students remain well and have not presented with symptoms,” Brundage said in the email. The Gastronome replaced its dishware and drinking vessels with disposable ones, and there are plans in place to increase social distancing within the community if needed, Brundage said.

“Zero presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been reported at CSUF,” Virjee repeated in his latest email. The rapidly evolving situation is subject to change anytime. CSUF will be closely monitoring the spread of the coronavirus and posting updates on the university’s website.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY DANNY VENEGAS / DAILY TITAN

Self-quarantined student received conflicting orders from university during COVID-19 situation

March 13

JESSICA BENDA
JORDAN MENDOZA
Editors

After certain students living at Cal State Fullerton were told to self-quarantine at 1 a.m. on Wednesday, one of those students was told shortly after noon that same day that their self-quarantine was lifted, only for it to get put back in place over an hour later.

The student was quarantined because they may have come in contact with someone who may have had contracted the novel coronavirus, according to emails obtained by the Daily Titan.

One of these students, who wishes to remain anonymous due to concern of losing their status as a student, received an email on Wednesday at 12:26 p.m. that states “the university has lifted your self-quarantine after much consultation with the CSUF Infectious Disease Working Group.” At that time, the student had already returned to their home in Long Beach, CA, where they were self-quarantined. Students were given the option of returning home or being moved to a vacant, isolated apartment on campus.

The student was told to attend their classes and informed they would be counted as absent if they did not

attend. But just over an hour later, they received another email that said the self-quarantine was put back in place, and that the earlier email was a mistake.

The student, who lives in Willow Hall during the semester, said they were at the hospital considering getting tested when they received the email that their quarantine was lifted as an error. After they were informed of the error, they decided to return home.

“It took a full hour — an hour and eight minutes — to tell me that was a mistake. Thankfully I didn’t get that email and head back to the school. I was still at the hospital when I got that phone call that actually it was an error, please continue to self-quarantine. I could’ve been heading back to the school,” the student said.

Hallie Hunt, the dean of students, sent the series of emails to the quarantined student. Hunt has not responded to the requests to comment.

In a conversation with Dennis Jackson, associate director of Housing and Residential Engagement, the student said they wanted to get tested as a precaution, but the university was not prepared to test for the virus and the student said they were not given guidance on how to get tested.

“He said if I want to get tested I should, but he didn’t say, or no one else besides that, nobody told me, ‘You should go here to get tested, we recommend this hospital, we recommend this county facility.’ No, none of that

happened,” the student said.

The student said they have not been tested for COVID-19 and have not shown any symptoms. The Student Wellness center said that they are able to coordinate testing under the guidance of the local health department, but are not testing students on campus.

Jenni Brundage, the director of housing, notified the housing community on Wednesday at 5:53 p.m. that three students were quarantined off-campus.

As of today, there are 14 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in Orange County. Six of the confirmed cases are people who are of the ages of 18 through 49.

According to the Orange County Health Agency, people should self-quarantine if they have traveled to a place with COVID-19 activity or been in contact with someone diagnosed with the virus. Those who choose to do so should be quarantined 14 days from the last day of possible exposure.

In an email sent to students on Thursday night, President Fram Virjee stated there are still zero presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 on or related to campus. Virjee also said that the university’s transition to virtual instruction will be accelerated, starting with voluntary online classes that began on Thursday and will continue to Monday.

Noah Biesiada contributed to this article.

March 12

Big West tournament canceled to contain COVID-19

The Big West announced today that it will immediately suspend all spring sports indefinitely, as well as the cancellation of the men’s and women’s basketball tournament in order to contain the spread of COVID-19.

March 15

NCAA cancels winter and spring sports

It was a whirlwind of emotions as the reality of the COVID-19 pandemic finally navigated its way into the realm of sports and brought it to a halt for numerous organizations. For athletes throughout all levels of competition, the totality of the situation not only ended promising seasons, but also brought an untimely end to some athletes’ careers.

March 16

Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm close their gates until April

As schools transition to virtual instruction and offices reduce their staff, people are faced with time off from work. The time they might have wished to spend getting lost in the magic of their favorite amusement parks. But even magic isn’t immune to the effects of the coronavirus outbreak as Disneyland and California Adventure parks closed their gates on March 14.

Faculty concerned about CSUF’s transition to online

March 16

ANTHONY ROBLEDO
Editor
EDER RAMIREZ
Asst. Editor

As Cal State Fullerton prepares to transition from in-person classes to temporary virtual instruction amid the national coronavirus outbreak, faculty members have voiced their concerns with the switch.

“I’ve talked to some of our lecturers who have already gone online and they said the learning curve is steep. They used the word steep five times emphatically. I want to highlight what a huge ask this is of the faculty, especially our lecturers who are doing way more than they are paid for,” said Jon Bruschke, Department of Human Communication Studies chair, at the meeting.

Bruschke was one of the faculty members who spoke about the transition at last week’s Academic Senate meeting.

Amir Dabirian, the vice president of CSUF’s Division of Information Technology and chief information officer, said that technology is going to play a big role in the transition.

Audiovisual tools have been installed in classrooms to equip instructors and professors with the appliances they need to execute

the remote learning transition.

Zoom Video Communications, Inc., a video conferencing program, will be expediting their infrastructure to meet the campus’ needs, Dabirian said. In concurrence, Titanium will also have its infrastructure doubled by IT to accommodate all the traffic that the site will receive during the on-line instructional period.

“Half of (my students) have never heard of Zoom, and so maybe they need some kind of email telling them what to do,” said Ken Walicki, a music professor.

Walicki said he also has concerns with how the closure and cancellation of all productions and concerts for the spring 2020 semester would affect his students.

“I get students who their senior recitals and/or graduate recitals are actually their capstones,” Walicki said. “It’s not a matter of canceling it and letting them pass. They use the recordings of these recitals to get professional gigs or to go into grad school and now they can’t do it, so what do I do?”

CSUF President Fram Virjee said the recitals could carry on with a limit on how many audience members could attend. He also said that during this time the primary goal is the health and safety for the campus community.

“The second, which is an almost equally important goal, is maintaining the academic process and the delivery of education

so that we don’t interfere with the progress for our students,” Virjee said.

Virjee also referenced the reports of self-quarantined students in student housing.

“There are no confirmed or potential coronavirus (cases) on our campus,” he said. “That ran through the campus yesterday and ran through last week. There is nothing like that happening on the campus.”

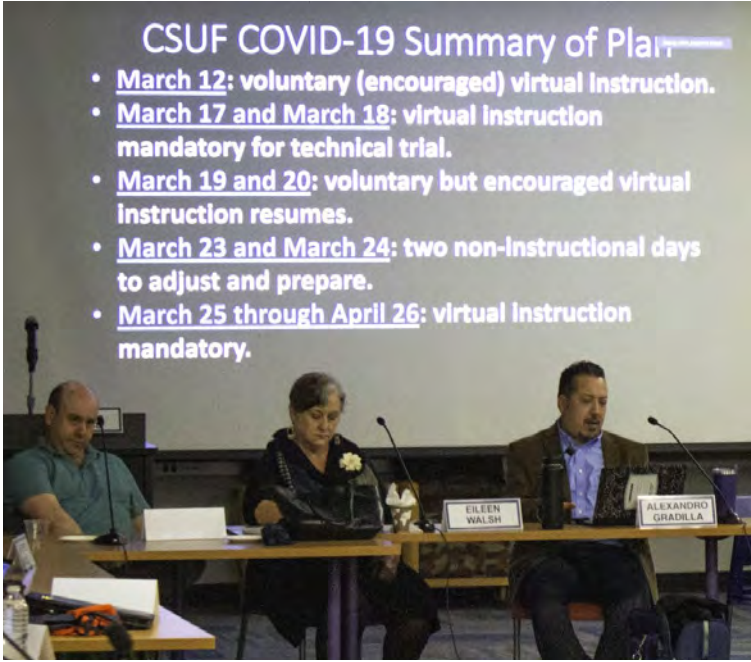
However, specific students in housing were instructed to self-quarantine through an email sent out by Hallie Hunt, the dean of students.

Provost Pamela Oliver said that all faculty will be required to engage in virtual instruction when it is mandatory, and professors who refuse to cooperate will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Virjee clarified that exceptions will be made for courses that must be taught in person, including laboratory and hands-on courses.

These courses will need to receive approval to hold face-to-face sessions during mandatory virtual instruction days. He said he feels comfortable and safe with this because the dispersion of students will allow them to maintain the necessary distance from one another.

Beyond the technical test days, two non-instructional days will be held on March 23 and 24 where faculty will be expected to attend campus to plan for the next month. The purpose of this is to



EDER RAMIREZ / DAILY TITAN

Administrators answered questions about the virtual instruction plan on March 12.

make sure faculty understands how to use Zoom and how it will impact students.

According to Mary Becerra, a representative of the Division of Student Affairs, Disabled Student Services will abide by the virtual instruction schedule. Disabled Student Services has reviewed and will accommodate all courses where students with specific disabilities need technological support.

“If any faculty hears of a student specifically in distress over this, they can also go to our counseling center and request to meet with a counselor around COVID-19 concerns,” Becerra said. “Student Affairs is open for business and we have professionals already identified and rallied to help students in this particular situation.”

Dabirian said that laptops will be available for faculty and students use, but requests must be approved by a chair, as laptops are extremely limited in numbers.

“We have 1,400 part-time faculty,” Dabirian said. “We have about 400 laptops right now available for part-time faculty or distribution.”

The mandatory online instruction period will occur from March 25 to April 26.

“This is a very fluid process as you can see,” Virjee said. “Every hour, a new event occurs or a new decision is made with respect to not only what’s happening on our campus, but what’s happening in the CSU system, across our state, across the country.”

The Daily Titan will suspend print production temporarily

March 18

JORDAN MENDOZA
Editor

Dear Daily Titan readers,

Ever since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic one week ago, Cal State Fullerton has tried to adapt to the situation by transitioning to virtual instruction to limit the chances of the virus arriving on campus.

From the virus’ initial outbreak to

now, the Daily Titan staff has done everything they could to cover this entire situation in our daily paper to keep the campus and community informed, just like we have always done.

However, due to limitations and mandates from the university, the Daily Titan has decided that today’s

issue will be the last issue we print until campus is reopened. The suspension of printing does not mean the paper is ending. During this time period, we will continue to write and publish stories, which will be available on our website, dailytitan.com, and social media accounts, @thedailytitan.

Times like these show why student journalism is so vital to keeping the community informed, and the staff will continue to dedicate their time to produce more award-winning stories. In the meantime, make sure to stay safe, and when we can come back to some sense of normalcy, the paper will be waiting for all of you.

March 16

CSUF offers refunds for semester parking permits

As Cal State Fullerton transitions from in-person classes to virtual instruction amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the university has announced that students have the option to refund their semester parking permits.

March 16

CSUF suspends campus activities as pandemic continues

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cal State Fullerton is suspending all non-essential on-campus functions and canceling all face-to-face classes such as labs and studios until April 26.

President Fram Virjee announced the changes in a campus-wide email on Monday evening. The non-instructional period is now March 19 to 24, and mandatory virtual instruction will continue on March 25. Students and faculty were instructed not to come to campus unless it is for a specific service or purpose that can’t be accessed virtually.

Summer 2020

DAILY TITAN

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It is Daily Titan policy to correct factual errors printed in the publication. Corrections will be published on the subsequent issue after an error is discovered and will appear on page 3. Errors on the Opinion page will be corrected on that page. Corrections will also be made to the online version of the article.

Please contact Editor-in-Chief Jordan Mendoza at (657) 278-5815 or at editorinchief@dailytitan.com to report any errors.

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COVID-19 spurs closures in California

March 18

KIM PHAM
JESSICA BENDA
Editors

The routines of day-to-day life have been interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has spurred school closures and left supermarket shelves empty in its wake.

Orange County and the surrounding areas have felt the full effects of the virus, and the county has seen a slew of closures over the past week.

Cal State Fullerton has begun the transition to remote learning, along with schools such as Cal State Long Beach and UC Irvine. Faculty members are expected to continue classes through virtual instruction.

Starting on Monday, the Fullerton School District will close all its schools in accordance with the resolution passed by the Fullerton School District board of trustees on Friday. All of the district's programs such as preschool, After School Education and Safety and TheLAB, a before and after school childcare program, will be closed as well.

On Saturday, the district's website was updated to indicate that classes and programs within the district will resume on March 30.

Academics are not the only institutional victims of this pandemic. As face-to-face education comes to a halt, so does entertainment. CSUF's College of the Arts has canceled all events for the spring 2020 semester, according to an email sent to students by Dale Merrill, the dean for the College of the Arts. This will include all productions, concerts and exhibitions.

Several campus clubs have canceled their in-person activities in favor of virtual meetings. Much

of Greek life has been halted as fraternities and sororities trade formal and date dashes for the safety of their members.

Ethnic clubs across California campuses have also seen a conclusion to their annual culture nights, which typically take place during the spring. UCI's Pilipinx-American Culture Night was supposed to take place on May 1, but has been cancelled out of safety concerns. CSUF's Pilipinx Culture Night was postponed from March 28 to sometime in May, and CSUF's Association of Chinese Students also canceled their culture night out of caution for members' wellness.

Several CSUF facilities, including the Titan Student Union and Pollak Library, are unavailable to faculty, students, staff and the public. The services they offer will only be accessible on a case-by-case basis and must be essential and unable to be virtually provided.

Both inside and outside of CSUF, athletic events have also been hit hard by nationwide precautions to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The chain of events began with banning fans from attending these sporting events in-person. It wasn't long until the NCAA issued the cancellation of all winter and spring sports on Thursday, resulting in the indefinite suspension of Big West Tournaments.

As of Monday at 7 p.m., the South Coast Plaza shopping mall in Costa Mesa was closed for 14 days. According to a statement released by the South Coast Plaza management team to its tenants, an employee in one of the center's stores tested positive for COVID-19 the night before, and the respective store had already closed on Friday evening. The mall plans to reopen on March 31.

Cinema screens have gone dark, as theater chains like AMC and Regal announced their temporary closure on Monday. Cinemark

joined them the next day, as CEO Mark Zoradi released a statement regarding the chain's closure amid the novel coronavirus.

Announcements of amusement park closures have also been frequent in the past week. Disneyland Resort closed its gates on Saturday for the third time in its 64-year history. The closure is scheduled through the end of the month, making it the theme park's longest closure ever.

Knott's Berry Farm and Universal Studios Hollywood shut down on the same day. Six Flags Magic Mountain and SeaWorld San Diego have also temporarily closed.

"The health and safety of our team members and guests is always our top priority," Universal Studios Hollywood said in a statement. "We continue to monitor the situation."

Festivals have not escaped the restrictions either. The highly

anticipated Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival, which drew nearly 100,000 people each day of the event last year, has been moved from April to October.

The country music festival Stagecoach, which was set for the same month, has also been pushed to October.

Governor Gavin Newsom called for the closure of bars and nightclubs throughout California at Sunday's press conference. Though restaurants dodged the shutdowns, Newsom said occupancy should be cut in half.

The guidelines follow last week's policy update by the California Department of Public Health, which instructed gatherings upwards of 250 people to be postponed or canceled. Concerts, conferences and sporting events all came to a halt as Newsom reinforced the policy on Wednesday.

"Not holding that concert or community event can have

cascading effects: saving dozens of lives and preserving critical health care resources that your family may need a month from now," Newsom said. "Changing our actions for a short period of time will save the life of one or more people you know."

According to the California Department of Public Health, there are 335 confirmed cases and six deaths as of Saturday at 6 p.m. PST. Of the 335 positive diagnoses, 24 are related to federal flights coming into California.

The 311 cases that are unrelated to repatriation flights resulted from one of the following: travel, person-to-person and community spread. Causation has not yet been identified for 91 of those cases.

On Sunday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the cancellation or postponement of all events of 50 people or more.



THERESE LIM / DAILY TITAN
The once bustling Steven G. Mihaylo Hall was deserted after the campus closed due to COVID-19 concerns.

Students struggle with connectivity as CSUF transitions online

March 18

KIM PHAM
Editor

Cal State Fullerton's transition to an online teaching platform has raised concerns among students who do not have internet access outside of campus or own a personal device to work from home.

As faculty members begin test driving Zoom, a cloud platform that enables video and audio communications, some students worry that they may start to fall behind without the resources they need to succeed in an online classroom.

CSUF students, faculty and staff already have free access to eduroam, a secure and federated Wi-Fi service used by research and educational institutions internationally. Students can connect to the internet by using their CSUF email address and domain password at any participating campus or organization.

However, as campuses across the country close, many students no longer have access to that free

service. Using this Wi-Fi network requires students to physically be on campus or at the respective institution. There have been no instructions from the university's president or university on how students who lack internet access or devices should proceed, but resources are available at the CSUF Division of Information Technology website.

This website provides technological assistance to CSUF's campus community, including a list of alternative networks for students who do not have internet access at home. For a limited time, certain networks are providing internet service for a free or low price as part of the Federal Communications Commission's Keep Americans Connected Pledge.

In a press release on Friday, FCC chairman Ajit Pai called upon broadband and telephone service providers to maintain American's connectivity so as to not penalize those who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I applaud those companies that have already taken the Keep Americans Connected Pledge.

They are stepping up to the plate and taking critical steps that will

make it easier for Americans to stay connected during this pandemic and maintain much-needed social distancing," Pai said in the press release.

Charter and Comcast are offering free internet access for 60 days. Charter is giving free Spectrum broadband and Wi-Fi connectivity to students from kindergarten to college who do not have a current subscription. Comcast is providing service to low-income families and offering free Xfinity hotspots to the public.

Students may also attain internet access by checking out portable Wi-Fi access hotspots, also known as Mi-Fi. These wireless routers are free to borrow through the school and can be used at home or any location for internet connection.

CSUF students who need to borrow a long-term device or devices are able to rent them at no cost through university. Pick-ups and returns could be made through the Student Genius Center in the Pollak Library North or Titan Student Union. However, with recent transitions to a remote working and learning space requests for checking out equipment must now be reviewed

by the dean of students instead.

"Due to the limited resources that we have for checking out laptops, you would need to contact the Dean of Students and make a request to them," the Student IT Help Desk said.

Those who wish to borrow a device must email deanofstudents@fullerton.edu and coronavirus@fullerton.edu. As of Tuesday, the IT department only has 200 Mi-Fi routers and 200 laptops available for students. These items are going to be given to students on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"We've got a queue. So we're trying to balance between the request by faculty for their instruction, and the request by students for their connectivity so that they can continue with their classes. I'm not sure how big the queue is but it's been getting pretty long as the campus has made adjustments from face to face to online modality," said Rommel Hidalgo, associate vice president of IT.

A high volume of requests to check out items is prompting the IT department to look for more resources that they can deploy to students, Hidalgo said.

"I definitely would think we

would need more, but we don't have any more in our inventory ... we started looking and it looks like the vendors are also getting low in stock inventory," Rommel said. "We wouldn't be able to deploy anymore until we get more and we're still looking for additional to see what we can get. But again, it's dependent on the vendor's inventory."

As the COVID-19 pandemic escalates across the nation, there is heightened pressure for large institutions such as college campuses to move interactions online with little notice, leaving only a short time for the university's services to tend to every student's needs.

In response to public health officials and the Cal State University Chancellor's Office, CSUF accelerated the transition to remote learning again on Tuesday, according to an email sent to students by President Fram Virjee the day before.

"CSUF is temporarily suspending all non-essential on-campus functions and expanding mandatory virtual instruction to include labs, studios, and all other face-to-face teaching modalities until at least April 26, 2020," Virjee said in the email.

March 18

CSUF postpones 2020 commencement

Cal State Fullerton has postponed commencement. On Tuesday, a campus-wide email announced that the 2020 graduating class will not be able to walk in May in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"Our greatest priority is the health and safety of our graduates, their families, our faculty and staff during this time," said Greg Saks, vice president of University Advancement in the email.

March 18

CSUF virtual instruction extended to end of semester

The remainder of Cal State Fullerton's spring semester will take place entirely online, according to an email sent on Wednesday by President Fram Virjee.

Virtual instruction was initially set to end on April 26, but has been extended to the end of the semester, May 22, as the COVID-19 pandemic spreads across the United States.

COVID-19 concerns addressed by Fullerton City Council

March 19

DIANA TRAN
Asst. Editor

Seats were left empty and marked off with tape for social distancing at the Fullerton City Council meeting Tuesday night. The meeting was held to reassure residents amid concerns regarding COVID-19.

“We know the effect to the economy and the effect to our residents is going to be great, and we want to work with the businesses, make sure that they’re surviving and that they can rebound,” said City Manager Kenneth Domer.

Domer said he will make sure that people at risk of having their water shut off as a result of payment issues will have water no matter what happens.

Councilman Ahmad Zahra, who also sits on the Orange County Water District board, encouraged residents to rely on tap water based on his own experiences seeing people buy bottled water.

“The (OCWD) has put out some notices as far as water quality. Our water is drinkable, it is up to standards, it is tested and there’s really no need to stock up other than just having some extra bottles,” Zahra said.

Further consolation was provided by Fullerton Police Chief Robert Dunn when he spoke about parking concerns.

“We have relaxed the street sweeping issue. We are fully aware that everybody is at home (and) kids aren’t in school,” Dunn said. “We’re not issuing citations for that. We’re being incredibly selective.”

An Orange County Public Health Order amended on March 18 canceled work for many individuals as it mandated the closure of movie theaters, gyms, health clubs and any businesses that serve alcohol and not food.

Furthermore, the order made a “strong recommendation” for individuals 65 years and older to self-isolate, echoing California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s call on Sunday.

“This is most certainly an unprecedented time in any city, the state, in the nation and really the world when it comes down to it as far as what COVID-19, the (novel) coronavirus, is kind of forcing us to go through,” Domer said.

Zahra referenced Newsom’s authorization for cities to look into suspending evictions and proposed that the City Council consider following suit to support Fullerton residents and businesses.

“Rent is coming up April 1, so these are issues that we know a lot of people are struggling (with) right now. Some people aren’t under homes, some people don’t have a paycheck anymore and I think this is something of an urgent matter,” Zahra said.

Domer committed to looking

into Zahra’s request and said he would provide a memo by March 24 detailing how the city would go about suspending evictions.

On the opposite side of the spectrum, councilman Bruce Whitaker felt that residents staying home opened opportunities for the city to catch up on infrastructure repair and maintenance.

“What’s really important is to reassure the public that we aren’t just wasting resources during this time but that we are active in terms of addressing needs that we have on an ongoing basis,” Whitaker said.

Road maintenance projects funded by Senate Bill 1, otherwise known as the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account, were approved at the meeting with a unanimous vote.

The repairs will take place on Euclid Street from Fern Drive to Bastanchury Road and on Orangethorpe Avenue from Woods to Highland Avenues, which were

estimated to cost \$1.75 million and \$940,000 respectively.

Fullerton resident Todd Harrison attended the meeting to advocate for the inclusion of senior veterans in the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program that is specifically tailored to provide financial support to residents of the Rancho La Paz and Rancho Fullerton mobile home parks.

“You’re about to consider changes and hopefully allocate more funds for the TBRA program that is helping some of my neighbors. That makes tonight’s meeting worth the personal risk of being here, and I thank you for the chance to be heard,” Harrison said.

Additional backing came from Planning Commissioner Doug Cox who felt that the program was great, especially as a combat veteran himself.

The recommendation was passed with no dissenting council members.

The final agenda item that would amend speed limits was tabled until April 21 because the council members felt it was an important topic that more residents should be a part of.

“The public right now is busy with COVID-19, and not many people are watching (the live stream),” Zahra said.

Councilwoman Jan Flory closed the meeting with optimism for the current situation.

“There are going to be a lot of people — our acquaintances, friends, family — who are going to need help through a difficult time, and we have to be cautious about that help so that we don’t make a situation worse, but at the same time, we have to help each other and love each other, and if things aren’t going perfect on the city side, you can take it from me that our staff has more than their hands full at the present time, and we just have to be patient,” Flory said.



DIANA TRAN / DAILY TITAN

Fullerton resident Todd Harrison attended the meeting to advocate for the inclusion of senior veterans in the Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Program, which is specifically tailored to provide financial support to residents of the Rancho La Paz and Rancho Fullerton mobile home parks.

Gov. Newsom orders Californians to stay home

March 19

JESSICA BENDA
Editor
DIANA TRAN
Asst. Editor

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has ordered Californians to stay at home, effective immediately, as COVID-19 continues to claim lives across the world.

The order, which was announced on Thursday evening, does not apply

to essential services such as gas stations, pharmacies, banks and law enforcement. “We’re going to keep the grocery stores open. We’re going to make sure that you’re getting critical medical supplies. You can still take your kids outside practicing common sense and social distancing. You can still walk your dog. You can still pick up that food at one of our distribution centers, at a restaurant, at a drive-thru, all of those things — we will still be able to do,” Newsom said. Newsom said there will be social pressure to encourage people to do the right thing. He said he does not believe California needs to use

law enforcement to impose this directive. “We are confident that the people in the state of California will abide by it. They’ll do the right thing, they’ll meet this moment, they’ll step up as they have over the course of the last number of weeks,” Newsom said. “There’s a social contract here. People I think recognize the need to do more and to meet this moment.” The order will shut down all entertainment venues, gyms, bars, public events and gatherings. Dine-in restaurants are only allowed to serve takeout. Nichole Quick, an Orange County health officer, issued a public health order with similar

guidelines on Tuesday, which called for the closing of all non-essential businesses.

As of Thursday at 5:56 p.m., there are a total of 1,001 positive COVID-19 cases and 19 deaths in California, according to the Los Angeles Times.

In Orange County, there have been 53 confirmed cases in Orange County but no deaths, according to the OC Health Care Agency. Newsom said the order does not have a specific deadline as it is a dynamic situation, but it will be in effect for at least the next eight weeks. “I don’t expect this will be many, many

months, but for the time being, we are recognizing the next eight weeks as it relates to this virus in particular and we want to get that curve down and we want to meet that moment,” he said.

Newsom added that he will be providing updates throughout the coming weeks.

“This is a moment we need to make tough decisions. This is a moment where we need some straight talk and we need to tell people the truth. We need to bend the curve in the state of California, and in order to do that we need to recognize the reality,” Newsom said.

Fullerton businesses struggle under Newsom’s mandates

March 22

KIM PHAM
JONATHAN PHAN
Editors

The COVID-19 pandemic has threatened the livelihoods of people all over the world, and American businesses are no exception as the U.S. government struggles to contain the spread of the virus while maintaining the economy.

On Thursday night, California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered Californians to stay in their homes and for the closure of nonessential businesses. Two days earlier, the Orange County Public Health Officer ordered the closure of alcohol-serving establishments that do not offer or sell food, with violations resulting in fines, imprisonment or both. Businesses that serve food have switched their dine-in services for delivery, pickup or drive-thru operations only.

As local businesses planned for an outbreak and strove to accommodate those in the workplace who fell ill, they were also

tasked with re-evaluating their operations to reflect an imminent market decline. Employers have also encouraged workers to stay home if they are feeling sick, specifically if they are experiencing symptoms related to the novel coronavirus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend social distancing to slow the spread of the virus and flatten the exponential curve. With less people going out and hours getting cut, businesses and workers have been facing the repercussions; gas prices have lowered, malls have become empty and small businesses have seen financial hardships.

Charlie Marquez, manager of the coffee shop the Night Owl in Downtown Fullerton, said business has been slow.

“Definitely we’ve noticed, especially Saturday night and Sunday, traffic was on the slower side. The number of cars has been reduced, and people — foot traffic — there’s almost none,” Marquez said.

Small businesses in California and 18 other states that are experiencing loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible

to apply for up to \$2 million in low-interest loans through the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program.

“I think our best bet, really, is going to come from the federal government through their potential (Small Businesses Association) loans and whatever programs they’re able to come up with,” said Aaron Barkenhagen, founder and CEO of Bootlegger’s Brewery.

Bootlegger’s Brewery, which is located on Highland and Commonwealth avenues, has been cutting hours and furloughing employees due to Orange County’s temporary ban on bars. The business will continue to sell beer to go but has halted their beer production until they receive more clarity on what the next few weeks will look like, Barkenhagen said.

Virtual Reality Zone in Downtown Fullerton made efforts to stay open by cutting hours and maintaining the cleanliness and sanitization of all their equipment, but it has temporarily closed until April 1, according to its Yelp page.

“The news started being more prevalent two weeks ago regarding the coronavirus, and starting

two weeks ago, we did start seeing a dip in attendance,” said owner Edmond Yu. “We could see that a lot of the reservations have stopped coming in for the month of March and April.”

MADE Coffee in Downtown Fullerton has also cut hours to comply with the county’s recommendations for social distancing and to reflect slow business, said owner Sun Park.

“For business, it’s hurting us, but also (it is) to help not spread the virus because it’s impacting the whole world. We should somehow follow the rules,” Park said.

Barkenhagen and Park said that there has been little guidance from the government on how to maintain their business or assist the employees whose wages are being affected.

“For our employees, they’re going to be filing for unemployment and they’ll hopefully get some relief through that, but we’re just taking it day-by-day right now,” Barkenhagen said.

The Employment Development Department of California allows eligible employees to file for unemployment insurance benefits if they are able to work but

cannot due to business closures as a result of the concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.

These employees will not be required to seek work during this time as long as they are able to work during and after this period; a time frame that is subject to change.

Newsom’s executive order on March 12 allows employees to attain unemployment insurance benefits during a worker’s first week of unemployment. Eligibility for these benefits will be further evaluated by the department.

Fullerton Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald sympathized with the pandemic’s financial impact on local businesses in a YouTube video message that was posted on March 19.

“These businesses provide income for families in our community and the surrounding cities, so wherever possible, I would encourage you to support them,” Fitzgerald said. “For our restaurants, ordering pickup, drive-thru or delivery services locally is a way of enjoying the local restaurants that you love, while also helping those impacted by this crisis.”

Orange County confirms its first COVID-19 related death

March 24

JESSICA BENDA
JORDAN MENDOZA
Editors

COVID-19 has claimed its first life in Orange County. According to the OC Health Care Agency on Tuesday, the victim was a male in his 70s according to a press release. He was being treated at a local hospital and had underlying conditions. “This serves as a very unfortunate reminder to the community about the importance of staying at home and social distancing when leaving the household for essential activities, or to work at an essential business, in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 and help protect our most vulnerable neighbors,” said Nichole Quick, the county health officer. On the same day, a Lancaster teenager was one of three new deaths confirmed by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. COVID-19 first appeared in Orange County nearly two months ago. There are now a total of 152 cases of the virus in the county as of Tuesday night. Of the confirmed cases, 88 of them are people under the age of 50. There have been 2,159 tested for the virus, and the county can test up to 1,390 new residents.

Hours after the announcement of the death, the Orange County Parks announced closures to encourage social distancing. The closures mainly affect the county beaches and parks, with parking lots, restrooms, playgrounds and shelters all being shut down. Of Orange County’s five beach cities, only Laguna Beach and Seal Beach have closed off their entire beaches. Gov. Gavin Newsom said there is an ongoing investigation into the Lancaster teenager’s death, but it was COVID-19 related. “Young people can and will be impacted by this virus. In fact, young people disproportionately are the ones testing positive in the state of California. Fifty percent of the 2,102 individuals that have tested positive — 50% — are between the age of 18 and 49,” Newsom said in a Facebook Live update. On Thursday, Newsom ordered Californians to stay in their homes with the exception of going outside for essential jobs and activities. “COVID-19 does not discriminate by age, race or income level, and what we are seeing in places like New York is indicative of what we should prepare to experience here,” said Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Public Health Director. “We can only flatten the curve if everyone takes social distancing seriously and adheres to all isolation and quarantine orders issued by our health officer.”

CSU Board of Trustees criticized for handling of COVID-19



DAILY TITAN

The CSU Board of Trustees discussed COVID-19 in a virtual meeting on March 25.

March 26

JESSICA BENDA
Editor

The California State University Board of Trustees faced criticism for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic during a virtual meeting on Tuesday. Three representatives of Students for Quality Education, a group that spans across CSU campuses, presented a list of seven requests during public comment. “Our living situation, financial stability and health of hundreds of thousands of California State University students have been negatively and critically impacted by

the COVID-19 campus closures,” said Hayli Antoniewicz from Cal State Long Beach SQE. Among the requests were refunding student fees for canceled services, finding housing for displaced students throughout quarantine and including student voices and input during emergency decision making. “We have seen egregious action on campuses the past few weeks, like 2-4 day evacuation notices sent to students after being assured that they would be allowed to stay, student workers losing their jobs or having their hours drastically cut without compensation and limiting hours and services of campus health centers on campus that provide critical medical care for students,” Antoniewicz said. SQE was one of several groups that voiced their concerns surrounding COVID-19 and its effects on the CSU system during public comments. Members of the CSU Employees Union called in to express their distaste for the treatment of faculty and staff in recent weeks. Tony Spraggins of Cal State Northridge told the Board he was disappointed with the CSU response to the COVID-19 crisis. “One thing we expected of you would’ve been the CSU take charge or responsibility of the situation. That didn’t happen. Instead, you passed the buck. You allowed lower-level managers to make decisions for people with no guidance from the top. People’s lives were literally pulled up by the root, safety out the window. Even now, people are wondering what’s next,” Spraggins said. Last week, the CSU announced in a statement that it will expedite the transition to virtual instruction and lower the population of students and employees on campus. “Most employees will transition to telecommuting, and some employees will also remain to maintain essential operations. For students or employees that must remain on campus, social distancing techniques will be adhered to. Campus presidents have been delegated the authority to best implement this guidance in the most timely manner,” said the statement from the CSU. However, Martin Brenner of Cal State Long Beach said employees have been needlessly endangered by managerial decisions. “It is shocking that the importance

of fundamental safety precautions was not self-evident to all CSU managers, many of whom have been reckless in over-classifying employees as essential and requiring them to remain on campuses, and you have failed to institute even basic protections for those required to return to on site work,” Brenner said. Fortunato Garcia, who has worked at Cal State Fresno for eight years, noted the danger of the virus and asked for the lives of CSU staff to be held in higher regards. “These arbitrary decisions put employees — and, by association, the public — in harm’s way, needlessly so in some cases. We often have employees who provide identical services being subjected to potential campus exposures while others are permitted to remain in the relative safety of their homes while receiving administrative time off,” Garcia said. As of 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, there are 2,535 positive cases of COVID-19 and 53 deaths in California. In the plenary session, some board members used part of their reports to offer words of encouragement toward one another and toward the CSU community regarding COVID-19. CSU Chancellor Timothy White recently postponed his July 2020 retirement amid the pandemic, along with Cal State East Bay President Leroy Morishita and Cal State Northridge President Diane Harrison. They will continue their roles through the fall 2020 semester. “It is my hope and firm belief that maintaining a continuity of leadership will prove helpful as we work through and adapt to the emerging realities we face, that it will lend some experience and certainty to these times of uncertainty,” White said. As a result of this pandemic, all CSUs have switched to virtual instruction and commencements have been postponed until further notice. “Even as I applaud our efforts, we all know our work is just beginning and will extend over many, many months. It is work that will at times test our will, try our patience and demand every ounce of the experiences and intellect that we can bring to bear. For the foreseeable future, our comfort zone will be but a fond memory,” White said.

CSUF housing issues over \$6 million in refunds

April 9

JESSICA BENDA
Editor

The Cal State Fullerton housing department began issuing refunds to residential students on Monday — an act that will cost the school \$6.4 million, according to Housing Director Jenni Brundage. Brundage said that out of the approximately 1,900 students who lived in on-campus housing prior to the evacuation, only 98 students remain. Dave Edwards, the associate vice president of student affairs, said the economic loss was unexpected. “The financial impact to housing is well over \$6 million in refunds, so that’s an expense or a loss in revenue that we weren’t planning for,” Edwards said at the Associated Students board of directors meeting on Tuesday. On March 18, Brundage announced that all students were to leave campus by March 22 at 8 p.m. Exceptions were made for international students or those unable to return home. Over 1,800 students moved out, Edwards said. He added that although the economic loss will impact CSUF’s reserves, the campus has prepared for these types of losses. “You plan for these situations, so when you have a negative financial impact — like the refunds I just mentioned — you all have reserves in place to support you financially,” Edwards said. “ASI is in a very good such financial situation when it comes to its reserve bubbles.” Individual refunds will vary based on the date the student left campus, the room type and their meal plan, according to an email from the Housing and Residential

Engagement Team sent out on Monday. Some students left campus prior to the mandatory eviction and planned to return to school once virtual instruction was over, which was initially set to end on April 26. Those students will not receive their refunds until they return to retrieve their belongings and check out. Housing will use March 22 as proration rate for the refund, according to the email. Additionally, refunds are available for semester parking permits, though they must be requested by

returning permits to the Parking Office or by mailing them in. Students can still return them for \$71 until April 22, according to Parking and Transportation services. Brundage said that housing is currently accepting applications for the 2020-21 academic year, but that is subject to change. “We are hopeful about being fully open and having a full community. However, we are closely monitoring COVID-19 and will continue to make adjustments as directed by state, local and university authorities,” Brundage said.



ELIZA GREEN / DAILY TITAN

As of April, approximately 1,900 students remained in-campus housing.

March 27

Fullerton passes ordinance that temporarily prohibits eviction

The Fullerton City Council passed an ordinance with a 4-1 vote that will temporarily prevent the eviction of residents amid the COVID-19 pandemic, which has sent the country sprinting toward a possible economic collapse.

Fullerton projects over \$3 million in revenue loss due to COVID-19

April 10

DIANA TRAN
Asst. Editor

The city of Fullerton projected that COVID-19 will cause about a \$3.1 million deficit in the general fund budget. The city estimated that its expected revenue for the 2019-20 fiscal year would have met the expenditure budget of over \$98 million if not for the new coronavirus.

City manager Ken Domer said that the city's biggest concern is revenue from sales taxes.

"It's an indicator really for the life of our retail commercial businesses, and we do know as you travel the roads and you go downtown there are businesses shut," Domer said. "Their revenue is a fraction of what they used to do."

Some of the city's projections include the auto industry's

revenue going down by 32%, general consumer goods down by 25%, restaurants, hotels and gas stations down by 20% and business industry decreased by 16.5%.

Domer discussed the negative impact on gas tax revenue due to less people driving.

"As we know, all of our road funds we put to good use, so any reduction is painful because it just means less slurry, less crackseal and one less mile of doing something with our roads," he said.

The indefinite stay-at-home order has the city increasingly concerned about how long it will take for the economy to rebuild itself.

"Once a restaurant opens (or once a movie theater opens, will people feel comfortable going back out into crowds? There's going to be a delay, so we're going to be seeing some impact in next year's projections for revenues, which is going to impact our overall budget," Domer said.

Library and park funds are

also projected to see revenue reductions of almost 10% and about 27% respectively.

One reassurance for the council is the city's property taxes, which make up almost half of Fullerton's revenue. Domer said it has not been identified as a threat for this year after communicating with the Orange County treasurer-tax collector, Shari Freidenrich, who said that most residents have paid their property taxes.

"If somebody is impacted by COVID because they weren't impounding their property taxes or they were waiting towards the end to pay it on their own — and they can't — there are mechanisms within the current law that they can appeal to the Orange County treasurer-tax collector for relief, so that is there," Domer said.

Councilman Jesus Silva brought attention to the concerns for the homeless community because, with restaurants closed, he is concerned about how their hygiene is maintained without access to restrooms and

sinks. He advocated for the addition of porta-potties in places such as the train station where individuals experiencing homelessness gather.

"I'm just afraid that this will cause an even bigger public health hazard," Silva said.

Porta-potties and wash basins are in tight supply, Domer said.

The city is currently negotiating with the county on a suitable park location where restrooms could be reopened. Previously, there were concerns among cleaning staff about homeless individuals living out of those restrooms.

Domer said that the city also has to look at the enhanced cleaning costs, which he estimates to be roughly \$350 a day.

Councilman Ahmad Zahra suggested stocking up on hand sanitizer for the homeless community to supplement the addition of porta-potties and wash basins.

"I know they're in short supply, but I'm wondering if there's

a way for us to obtain some to pass out to people who are still out in the streets and not in our facilities," Zahra said. "Maybe we can do some sort of outreach to see if some of the community would donate some of their supplies to us and we can distribute them."

Domer agreed that reaching out to community members and nonprofits would be a good idea.

Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald expressed her gratitude to residents for "hanging in there and for doing their best during what are really trying, uncertain times."

Zahra shared similar sentiments in a shout out to the Fullerton community.

"I just wanted to really say how proud I am of our community for coming together at this time. We're seeing a lot of organizations, nonprofits and individuals all step up and do their part," Zahra said. "I would like to thank our entire community for being united in our resolve to overcome this crisis."



Fullerton City Council members convene for a virtual meeting on April 7 to discuss COVID-19's financial impacts on the city.

DAILY TITAN

OC district attorney warns against scams and price gouging

April 10

JESSICA BENDA
Editor

As COVID-19 cases increase, so are scam testing sites and price gouging in Orange County.

District Attorney Todd Spitzer said there have been 130 investigations into reports of testing that is not approved by the Food and Drug Association and the overcharging of water and toilet paper in Orange County.

He encouraged anyone with suspicions should report to the scam hotline at (714) 834-3482.

"If you're in doubt, I just want you to make a phone call," Spitzer said. "There's 800 employees in the Orange County district attorney's office. We have 150 district attorney investigators and they're specifically trained to investigate these kinds of crimes. So, allow us to do our job. And if

you'd use the tip line, we would very, very much appreciate that."

Though costs may increase as demand increases, price gouging is defined as raising the price more than 10%, Spitzer said. He added that if a retailer now has to pay more for an item, such as a mask, they're allowed to add 10% to the increased price they paid for it without it being classified as price gouging.

He also said if a product was set at that cost before, even if it is high, it is not necessarily price gouging.

"It can be extremely complicated and there's an analysis that has to take place. So if you're unsure, call the hotline and let us do our job and investigate that," Spitzer said. "I don't want anybody sitting at home feeling like that out of desperation, they have to go to the corner store and pay \$5 for a roll of toilet paper."

Spitzer also warned the public to be on the lookout for COVID-19 testing that was misrepresented as FDA approved, as well as scam emails

that are disguised as charity sites.

On Wednesday, the number of COVID-19 cases in Orange County surpassed 1,000. As of Thursday, there are 1,079 cases and 17 deaths, according to the OC Health Care Agency website.

OC Health Officer Nichole Quick addressed the ongoing health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, reiterating the recent strong recommendation to wear face coverings while out in public.

She emphasized that the recommended face coverings are not the same as the masks that first responders need, which are under a critical shortage. Face coverings refer to cloth that can be made out of a variety of materials.

Though it is currently a strong recommendation, it may become mandated in the future.

"I want to be very clear that there may be in the near future a time or a mandate is more appropriate, so this is something that is going to be continually revisited," Quick said. "At



DAILY TITAN

A screenshot of OC District Attorney Todd Spitzer at a press conference on April 9, where he addressed the issue of scam testing sites.

this point in time, the reason I made a strong recommendation versus a mandate is based on what we're seeing numbers wise, and I'm hopeful that we're seeing a flattening of curve in Orange County."

Though Quick said there is reason to believe that social distancing is working, she urged people to continue practicing it and stay home unless it is essential.

As people socially distance themselves, Spitzer said they are seeing a dramatic decrease in arrests.

In Orange County, child abuse reporting is also down by 45% and elder abuse reporting is down by 68%, Spitzer said.

"By having people shelter at

home, we have potentially put children and elderly people closer to their abuser," Spitzer said.

He added that there is now a lack of mandatory reporters, such as nurses and teachers. He urged the public to report any children with bruises or who are not acting normal and to ask elderly people if they are OK if something looks off.

"I know it might feel like we're asking you to intrude in people's personal lives, but today we do not have mandatory reporters available to report abuse," Spitzer said. "I'd much rather have you call the Department of Social Services, have them look into it and have it be inconclusive than not reported at all."

CSUF to receive over \$41 million in aid as pandemic grips U.S.

April 16

KARINA GUTIERREZ
LETICIA PEREZ
Asst. Editors

Cal State Fullerton will receive \$41 million in coronavirus aid, half of which will go to students who have faced unexpected and urgent needs related to the coronavirus.

California Rep. Gil Cisneros announced Wednesday that nearly \$100 million in aid would be distributed to students, colleges and universities located in the 39th district, which encompasses parts of Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

Half of the funding must be distributed to students to provide financial support for “unexpected and urgent needs,” such as expenses related to food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child care.

Over \$20 million will be allocated to CSUF students through the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, which come from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, or the CARES Act.

The CARES Act will also temporarily suspend federal student loan payments and alter the provisions to financial aid, federal work-study, supplemental educational-opportunity grants and foreign institutions.

“During these unprecedented times, we are thankful to the federal government for the

opportunity to continue to support our students. We are working with various campus partners and the Department of Education to get these funds distributed to our students,” said Tami Bui, CSUF associate vice president of Government and Community Relations.

The CARES Act was the third and largest economic stimulus package passed to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S.

“As a result of this pandemic, our schools have had to abruptly shut down and transition to online learning, upending the lives of countless students, many of whom rely on their school for food and housing,” Cisneros said in a statement.

The Education Stabilization Fund, created by the CARES

Act, is set to support schools K-12, colleges and universities, and it will continue to be available through Sept. 30, 2021.

The fund contains approximately \$30.75 billion and will be divided into three sectors: about \$13.2 billion of funding for K-12, nearly \$14 billion of funding to higher education and nearly \$3 billion of funding to the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund.

CSUF is not alone in receiving emergency financial assistance. Cal Poly Pomona, Fullerton College and Mt. San Antonio College will also receive funding.

“This crisis has unmasked a number of challenges that members of our community face on a regular basis. Specifically, it has exposed the fact that students and families living in poverty are experiencing the worst of this crisis. These funds coming directly to Fullerton College will provide vital help to keep our students learning and engaged, but more importantly safe and healthy,” said Greg Schulz, the president of Fullerton College.

On April 6, Cisneros announced that the district would be receiving over \$31 million in aid from the \$2 trillion coronavirus relief package unanimously passed by the U.S. Senate last

month. The relief package is designed to financially support small businesses, individuals, federal safety nets, big corporations, state and local governments, hospitals, public health and education.

Cisneros said that the funds would provide aid for homeless assistance, health facilities, child care centers, food banks, senior services and other needs pertaining to the economy or housing.

“Our cities and counties are on the frontlines dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. From my conversations and meetings with local leaders, organizations, health centers and small businesses, I know they need more resources and funding to keep our communities safe,” Cisneros said in a press release.

It will also provide additional funding to health care organizations and will allow for the further expansion of health insurance coverage for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the new virus.

As of Wednesday, there have been 1,376 reported cases of coronavirus — including 22 coronavirus-related deaths — in Orange County, according to the OC Health Care Agency. The city of Fullerton has had 42 reported cases.

Spring CSUF students granted credit/no credit grading option

April 17

DIANA TRAN
Asst. Editor

It’s official: students will have the option to complete any or all of their spring semester classes under a credit or no credit system. They will also have more time to withdraw from classes for non-medical reasons.

Cal State Fullerton announced on Wednesday that students will be able to choose between a traditional letter grade and credit or no credit within 10 days after learning their final course grades, which faculty are expected to submit by May 22.

This means until June 1, students can opt into the credit or no credit system. Undergraduate students will receive credit for A through C- letter grades, while graduate courses will be considered passed with a letter grade of A through B-. If a student does not switch to credit or no credit, then they will receive the letter grade by default. In addition to

the new grading system, CSUF extended the deadline to withdraw from classes for non-medical reasons to May 8. Non-medical reasons include changes in employment hours, family needs, financial issues and other issues related to time and ability to succeed in classes.

Students can avoid receiving a failing grade by filling out a withdrawal form for each course that they are opting out of. The form must include reasons for withdrawing, as well as supporting documentation. This form must be approved by the student’s instructor and department chair before it can be sent to the Records and Registration office for processing.

The college assistant dean is available to provide guidance to students who are contemplating withdrawal, and further support for students’ academic concerns is expected to be available soon.

Students will be able to switch to credit or no credit through the university’s online portal. A video tutorial is pending release to guide students on how to opt in for the new grading system. There are also step-by-step

instructions provided by the university’s information technology department. Due to the coronavirus, the chancellor’s office has given campuses the authority to choose their own grading options. Other college campuses instituted a credit or no credit grading option, such as Cal State Los Angeles and Cal Poly Pomona.

“While some other CSUs might have had quicker policies about (credit/ no credit), we chose the option of having all of the student-related policies done at the same time,” said Academic Senate Chair Mark Stohs. “We wanted to get it right and not announce policies that might later have to be changed.”

Stohs said the Academic Senate collaborated with groups such as the Associated Students, the CSUF leadership team and college deans to create and pass resolutions.

He communicated with the Senate Executive Committee before spring break to hold and prepare for an emergency meeting on April 9 over Zoom, which hosted over 200 participants to see a resolution pass for the consideration of the credit or no credit system.

Stohs said that extending course withdrawals was quite restrictive, but it was made possible after the CSU chancellor’s office permitted it on Tuesday.

Stohs said that he and his committee have been hearing and working to respond to students’ concerns surrounding grading since March 12. “We know that this pandemic causes havoc for just about everyone; and everyone that I’ve talked to has tried to think of the best way we could be as flexible as possible given the pandemic,” he said.

English and history major Kimberly Pruitt said she felt that having the option of a credit or no credit grade is a good intermediary that allows students to choose what best suits their situation.

“I think it’s a great solution to a horrible, unprecedented problem,” Pruitt said. “I know many people who have had their lives affected negatively by what’s going on with COVID-19, and their grades have suffered because of it.”

She expressed her difficulties with online classes and said that she depended on attending classes to keep herself accountable for meeting deadlines, though she

noted that the lack of commute is much easier.

“We know that these actions alone cannot relieve all the difficulties related to COVID-19, but we hope they will alleviate at least some of the academic-related stress,” said the Dean of Students office in the email announcement.

Opting for the credit or no credit grading method will not affect a student’s GPA. However, no credit grades may have an impact on financial aid, so the university advises students to connect with the Office of Financial Aid for more information. Some student groups have credit and no credit restrictions, including veterans, student athletes and some international students.

The university recommends that those students check in with the Athletics Academic Services Office, Veteran Resource Center or the International Programs Office for more details.

“The university will provide advising early and often to ensure students are equipped to make the grading choices that best serve their unique goals and needs,” read the email from the office of the Dean of Students.

CSUF Athletics forced to make adjustments to match reduced revenue

April 19

ADAM MALDONADO
Editor

After the cancellation of spring sports for the 2020 season, Cal State Fullerton Athletics has lost approximately \$1.05 million in revenue this fiscal year from ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and facility rentals, said Summer Rivera, CSUF Athletics chief financial officer.

Included in the financial blow is a 70% loss of NCAA funding that is provided through postseason play such as the NCAA basketball tournament, which was canceled due to the ongoing pandemic. With the combined loss of revenue through multiple streams, the department expects their budget for next year to be flat to down overall,

said Athletic Director Jim Donovan. Amid these circumstances, Titan Athletics has been pushed to adjust their budget to match the reduced revenues. This included layoffs of 11 full-time and two part-time employees, as well as three graduate assistant equivalents. Of those employees, about half the layoffs consisted of support staff, and the other half consisted of employees from the sports programs, which included a handful of assistant coaches and one trainer.

Donovan said it saddened him greatly to let the employees go, and that it had nothing to do with performance, but it was necessary for the budget.

“We would love to bring those positions back, in some areas we have to, because we can only operate for a short period, six months to a year with the severe reduction in staffing,” Donovan said. “We’ll have to bring them back eventually, but we have to wait til the revenues start to recover.”

Aside from the layoffs, no currently employed staff member within the athletics department has needed to take a pay-cut to make up for the lost revenue, but said it would be a larger issue to be determined by either the CSUs or the state government as the situation develops, said to Senior Associate Athletics Director Steve DiTolla.

“In this business, you’re trained to deal with adversity, and we just got right to the task and got the job done and it really sucked. I’ll be very honest with you, it’s been very difficult. But given the situation, I think we’ve done a really good job adapting to the situation,” DiTolla said.

By the time of the suspension, the baseball and softball teams, which make up almost the entirety of ticket sales for spring sports, had only completed 30% of their games of the season. Season ticket holders will be offered a prorated refund for the missed games as

a result, said Assistant Athletics Director of Sales and Marketing Jennifer McGhen. Refunds can either be given back to the buyer, donated to the athletics department or carried over to cover a part of the cost for season tickets for next year. Pre-sale tickets for individual games are currently in the process of being completely reimbursed to purchasers.

Although the baseball and softball teams were expected to be televised on ESPN in a slate of seven combined games throughout the season, being a small NCAA school has benefited CSUF since the university does not earn any revenue from televised games to begin with. Larger institutions, such as Power-5 schools, are tied to much larger television agreements and face a larger financial burden now that those agreements have become void according to Donovan.

Under social-distancing orders from California Gov. Gavin Newsom, it is still unknown whether sports will continue in the fall. Even if these guidelines become more lenient, mass gatherings such as sporting events may still be barred from the public.

This may result in games without fans in attendance if competition were to continue as usual in the fall — a trend that many other major sports organizations may follow depending on public health guidelines.

If this scenario were to be played

out, Titan Athletics is in the process of increasing its bandwidth to broadcast games via streaming while still including live-action elements such as an announcer and music, according to McGhen.

“People will still be able to watch our athletes perform at the highest level that they can, we will try to do our best from a game atmosphere,” McGhen said. “Even now, we’re just trying to communicate with our fans through social media, keeping everybody engaged along with our student athletes and our coaches.”

With continued uncertainty about how the coronavirus will further impact different institutions, many decisions are yet to be made at both the NCAA and legislative levels.

Despite the lack of a clear future, Titan Athletics has maintained consistent communication within the department via Zoom to discuss how to navigate through the current situation and find solutions to the obstacles they now endure, Donovan said. “We’ve adapted well. We were very quick and we’ve communicated well and that’s probably a key factor in being able to adapt quickly, because we trust each other,” Donovan said. “It’s what we learned through athletics. We learned to make a game plan, we learned that things aren’t going to always go according to plan. You got to be able to adjust the game plan and be flexible and make adjustments.”

CSUF grapples with millions in lost revenue caused by COVID-19

April 22

JESSICA BENDA
Editor

As COVID-19 pulls at the strings holding the American economy together, Cal State Fullerton is one of many universities feeling the financial strain.

“I think we’re probably at about \$20 million upside-down right now, based on projected losses thus far,” said President Fram Virjee at a town hall meeting for faculty and staff on Monday. “We’re going to need to tighten our belts across the divisions and across the colleges in the coming months and likely, frankly, in the coming years.”

He said that the university committed to nearly \$12 million in residential and parking refunds alone. More than half a million unbudgeted dollars were used within the Department of Information Technology as the use of technology became more essential, while there is “substantial unearned income, unearned grants and unrealized revenue for ASC and ASI,” Virjee said.

The university also faces a possible reduction in the number of both new and returning students next semester, which could result in a loss of revenue.

One of the largest hits will ripple through the entire CSU system. The state and CSU chancellor’s office have warned universities to prepare for substantial reductions in state aid — one of CSUF’s main sources of

funding aside from tuition dollars, Virjee said.

“We’re being told to model an estimate of something between three and 15%. That’s a pretty broad band for reductions in revenue from the state, and we’re preparing for those possible reductions,” Virjee said.

Staff and faculty were asked to donate to the newly created Titan emergency fund if they were able, which supports financially struggling students, faculty and staff.

Ten percent of Virjee’s take-home salary will go to the fund each month through the rest of 2020, he said, and the rest of his cabinet will also be contributing.

An email from Virjee said that in the coming weeks, struggling faculty and staff would receive instructions on how to apply for support.

Harry LeGrande, the vice president for student affairs, said that around \$8.4 million in emergency funds was sent out to students in March and about \$2.2 million has been sent in April.

To combat financial losses, California Rep. Gil Cisneros announced last week that CSUF will receive \$41 million as a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act, more commonly known as the CARES Act. Half of the funding will go to students who are facing unexpected and urgent needs related to the novel coronavirus.

The \$41 million was part of nearly \$100 million in funding that will be dispersed among colleges and universities in the 39th district.

As for CSUF itself, Virjee said the school has instituted a hiring

freeze. However, there are currently no plans for layoffs or furloughs.

“We have no current plans for any layoffs or furloughs. But I will tell you quite honestly that much of that will depend upon the future,” Virjee said. “It will really depend on two things: whether we can continue to manage our financial losses, and what our ongoing revenue outlook looks like.”

Virjee said that there is paid administrative leave for faculty and staff, and the university was working on payment plans and debt forgiveness for students.

“Clearly, the first order of business for us is supporting our students and our faculty and staff. But, as an institution, we are not immune in any way from the financial hardships that we are suffering,” Virjee said.



OMAR SANCHEZ / DAILY TITAN

April 4

NCAA offers an extra year of eligibility for senior athletes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic abruptly ending collegiate spring sports, the NCAA announced on Monday that student athletes who participated in spring sports, such as baseball and softball, will be given an extra year of eligibility to play.

April 21

Head coaches have the final say in senior eligibility for 2021 spring season

Even though the NCAA offered an extra year of eligibility for spring athletes who had their seasons canceled due to the novel coronavirus, it has been left to the universities to decide whether or not to extend that offer to their student athletes.

April 22

Fullerton will require public to wear face masks in close contact businesses

Effective on Friday, the City of Fullerton will require the public to wear face coverings when visiting certain essential businesses that involve close contact and no shielding or protection. The decision narrowly passed with a 3-2 vote during the city council meeting on Tuesday.

April 23

CSUF students will not receive spring tuition reimbursements

Amid student demands for reimbursements at Cal State Fullerton, President Fram Virjee announced on Wednesday that students will not be receiving tuition refunds for the spring semester.

May 6

DIANA TRAN
Asst. Editor

At Tuesday night’s virtual city council meeting, Fullerton council members expressed eagerness to reopen the city’s economy as they presented the city’s steps to follow California Gov. Gavin Newsom’s pandemic resilience roadmap.

“I in no way minimize any of the sickness and death that has occurred because of COVID, but simply put, people are desperate to get back to work. So, I want you to know that I am pushing as hard as I can within the constraints of the law to make sure we support our economy and our residents who want to get back to work,” said Mayor Jennifer Fitzgerald.

The governor’s plan consists of four stages: ensuring safety and preparedness in workplaces, opening lower risk workplaces, opening higher risk workplaces and finally, ending the stay-at-home order.

City Manager Ken Domer said that stage two preparations are underway to gradually open lower risk workplaces with adaptations.

“The concern is that we pull the order too early and then the virus reemerges stronger and then you have to go back into stay-at-home, so those are some of the things the governor and his roadmap are trying to avoid,” Domer said.

The city is preparing what they call “Stage 2 Lite,” which are plans to reopen retail businesses with curbside pickup capability, manufacturing, offices when telework is not possible and more public spaces. Domer estimates that retail businesses

Fullerton City Council maps out road to reopening

could open within 10 days.

The full extent of stage two would be giving restaurants the ability to allow dining in with social distancing and sanitation protocols. However, the city does not have any set dates as to when restaurants will have this capability.

In preparation for these reopenings, council members unanimously approved recommendations that would support fully opening restaurants.

These measures will increase the allowable public and private space available for outdoor dining, Domer said. This will be done by allowing a reduction in on-site parking on private property with a property owner’s permission.

“I love this idea. I think it could be a real shot in the arm to our restaurants and show them that we’re in this with them.”

JENNIFER FITZGERALD
Fullerton Mayor

Additionally, the city will be waiving encroachment permit fees for utilization of public space for outdoor dining until Nov. 2.

“I love this idea. I think it could be a real shot in the arm to our restaurants and show them that we’re in this with them,” Fitzgerald said.

While these plans are in progress, Domer confirmed a few public spaces that would be open this weekend.

These include the equestrian center, the Independence Park pool for swimming practice and parking lots at park. However, Domer expressed concern in potential Mother’s Day

celebrations this weekend.

“Hopefully, there will not be social gatherings at the parks which would probably force us to go right back and close the parking lots, but we want to be able to open up those parking lots and those opportunities for more people to visit and get out and get into the parks,” Domer said.

He went on to say that there will be signage encouraging social distancing and warning patrons to utilize playground equipment at their own risk.

The city is looking at a sanitizing regiment for their parks and obtaining mobile sanitizers which Domer describes as “Ghostbusters’ backpacks.”

Though residents will have easier access to parks with parking lots open, Domer said restrooms will remain closed until the city has adequate staffing and sanitizing measures in place.

To improve residents’ park experience, council members approved funding \$300,000 to replace play structures at Hillcrest Park and Fullerton Sports Complex, which had been deemed unstable and beyond repair.

This construction is estimated to take place from mid-July and finish mid-August.

Domer also announced that City Hall is expected to open on Monday after physical improvements are made such as adding sneeze guards, signage and other barriers.

Reopening lower-risk workplaces will be dependent on the governor’s announcements, and Domer said that the city will be proactive while they wait for that guidance.

“We greatly encourage the patience of everybody. We are working with the businesses on many things and getting ready for that time when the governor says go,” Domer said.

Fall semester plans to be primarily virtual across CSU campuses, chancellor says

May 12

JESSICA BENDA
Editor
HOSAM ELATTAR
Asst. Editor

As the spring semester comes to an end, Cal State University Chancellor Timothy White announced that most classes across the CSU’s 23 campuses are planned to be primarily virtual for the fall semester.

“This virtual planning approach for the next academic year is necessary because of the evolving data surrounding COVID-19,” White said. “We cannot change the biology of this disease. As a society, all we can do is mitigate it to our personal and collective preventative measures.”

White said there will be limited exceptions for in-person

activities, such as nursing classes with training mannequins or essential laboratory classes.

Mike Uhlenkamp, the senior director of public affairs for the CSU, said this decision is for planning purposes right now, and will provide flexibility on how campuses will proceed.

“The hope is that, obviously, we’ll be able to go back to face to face normal operations. We don’t know when that’s going to be. Is there potential to do that in the fall? Maybe. It really kind of depends on what happens with the virus,” Uhlenkamp said.

Uhlenkamp said that while White made the announcement at the board of trustees meeting on Tuesday, the decision was deliberated for weeks with university presidents. He added that information about this decision was shared with the California State Student Association leadership.

Faculty members will receive training to better use the

technology available to support students with their online instruction, the cost of which is still to be determined, Uhlenkamp said.

“Campuses are going to offer professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

We want to make sure that we are offering as comprehensive of an educational experience as possible,” he said.

Last month, Cal State Fullerton Provost Pamela Oliver said that the university was making plans to start classes in the fall virtually and gradually reopen in-person classes at a town hall meeting for faculty.

Confusion emerged following the meeting as multiple publications reported that CSUF would hold the entirety of the fall semester online. It is still unknown how the decision to start online could impact the universities’ finances, Uhlenkamp said.

The CSUs have already lost

sweeping amounts of revenue as part of COVID-19’s economic rampage. CSUF itself has lost around \$20 million as of April 20, said CSUF President Fram Virjee at a town hall meeting.

Furthermore, a lawsuit has also been filed against the system by a student at Sonoma State University after the school refused to offer prorated refunds for campus fees, according to the Sundial, the student newspaper of Cal State Northridge.

Across the state, students and student organizations, including Students for Quality Education, have been advocating for prorated refunds since the move to virtual instruction.

As of April 20, Virjee said CSUF students would not be receiving reimbursements for the spring semester, as that would be a decision made by the CSU. He added that the money had already been spent and is still being used to cover the costs of faculty, staff

and student services.

It is unknown whether students will receive a discounted price for fall semester.

“We are making our preparations with an emphasis on flexibility and the ability to pivot from limited face-to-face instruction to virtual as needed and as we deal with the quickly-changing nature of the pandemic,” Virjee said in a statement about the Chancellor’s remarks today.

He added that the University will base their decisions on prioritizing the health and safety of the campus community.

“The campuses are still serving students and they will still continue to serve students,” Uhlenkamp said. “The campuses and chancellor’s office and the university as a whole are going to do everything that we can to provide students with as robust and comprehensive of a learning environment as possible but it will be different.”



OMAR SANCHEZ / DAILY TITAN

May 23

Dine-in restaurants and retail stores can now reopen in OC

After California began its stay-at-home order over two months ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom has approved Orange County’s plans to begin reopening local businesses effective immediately as Memorial Day weekend begins.

June 11

OC continues to reopen; face masks no longer mandatory

As California continues to move through the four-step plan to reopen after a statewide shutdown in March, Orange County will reopen higher-risk workplaces and will no longer require face coverings to be worn in public effective Friday.

Class of 2020 celebrated with virtual commencement

June 15

JORDAN MENDOZA
Editor

Nearly three months after Cal State Fullerton announced that the 2020 commencement would be postponed, the university released its virtual commencement celebration on Saturday, which was filled with messages from administration, alumni and graduates.

In one of the largest graduating classes in the school’s history, over 12,000 graduates were honored in the virtual celebration, as students, families and friends could find the graduate’s slide with their name, college and a personal message.

The school also has a social media feed of people posting their graduation photos and memories from their time at CSUF using the hashtag #CSUFGrad2020.

MarchingOrder, a company that specializes in graduation ceremonies, was used for the slides of graduates. Ellen Treanor, associate vice president for Strategic Communications, said that as of Monday morning, the MarchingOrder website for the school has had over 302,000 impressions.

“A lot of people went to our commencement page, and then they went to the MarchingOrder’s page, and it seemed like there was a tremendous amount of engagement and shares,” Treanor said. “So, it seems like it was a really, really good day.”

In his message to the graduating

class, CSUF President Fram Virjee said that while the 2020 class has not gotten their in-person ceremony yet, they deserve the right to be celebrated.

“You, our amazing class of 2020, worked harder, achieved more and overcame greater obstacles in pursuit of your degree than any other class in our history. In my book, that means you earned it,” Virjee said.

Virjee also challenged the class of 2020 to be the change the country needs against injustice and racism in response to the death of George Floyd and the national protests against police brutality.

“These past few weeks, many of you have stood tall, and in solidarity with our Black Titans and their communities of color around the world who are scared and

suffering. And if we as people are going to unite to finally reconcile with our past, and eradicate systemic racism and oppression, it is you, the class of 2020, who must take on that mantle,” Virjee said.

Though colleges across the country, including nearby schools like UC Irvine and UCLA, have cancelled in-person graduation ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Virjee assured students that they will “have the biggest bash our university has ever thrown” when the school determines it is safe to have it on campus.

Treanor said that CSUF has to follow laws from the Orange County Health Department and Gov. Gavin Newsom, and is receiving recommendations and guidance from the chancellor’s office and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Ultimately, it will come down to the OC Health Department, she said.

One of the speakers for the virtual ceremony was NASA astronaut Alumna Tracy Caldwell Dyson. Part of the track and field team, Caldwell Dyson graduated from CSUF in 1993 and received her Ph.D. from UC Davis in 1997. A year later, she was selected to be an astronaut by NASA, where she was on board the Space Shuttle Endeavor in 2007. She has spent over 188 days in space.

Caldwell Dyson commended

the students for graduating during a pandemic and told them to remember those who got them to that milestone.

“I challenge you now to go forward, with all that you have amassed and added to that gigantic cerebral cortex that you have, that you remember those who have served you and you go forth, and you do great things,” she said.

Other alumni who spoke for the celebration included Los Angeles Angels chairman Dennis Kuhl, Marc Stein from the New York Times and NBA Champion Bruce Bowen.

ASI President Aaron Aguilar said in a speech that students should remember the family — related and those they found on campus — who helped lift them through their journey at CSUF and overcome the adversity the pandemic brought.

Graduating senior Kyle Fulbright said that even though he is still hoping for an in-person ceremony later this year, he thought the school did a good job with the celebration and he liked that anyone can view the video messages and slides at any time.

“It’s probably the best thing that they could have done,” Fulbright said. “Your families could go on still and view it, so it’s not just like a one day thing, and they still read everyone’s name. I think it was the best that the school could do given the circumstances.”

Disneyland Resort delays reopening as COVID-19 cases spike

June 25

ANTHONY ROBLEDO
Volunteer

Disney will delay their July reopening date of the Anaheim Disneyland Park and the Disney California Adventure park to a later date, pending state and local government approval, according to a statement they released Wednesday.

The reopening of Disney's Grand Californian Hotel and

Spa and Paradise Pier Hotel, which was initially set for July 23, has also been delayed. However, the Downtown Disney District will still reopen on July 9, according to the statement.

The initial July 17 reopening date marked the 65th anniversary of Disneyland Park. While a reopening date for the theme park is now uncertain, the resort shared insight into the changes guests will see.

To limit capacity and promote social distancing, guests and annual pass holders must make a reservation to enter the park, according to the statement.

Certain hotels, restaurants, attractions and experiences will be limited in capacity or remain closed based on guidance from health experts and government officials.

This statement comes as coronavirus cases rapidly rise. As of June 24, there were 183,073 cases statewide with 5,580 related deaths.

According to the Orange County Business Journal, Orange County reported an average of 274 daily COVID-19 cases and 26 related deaths on Wednesday. There are now 299 total deaths in Orange County,

exceeding neighboring counties in new cases, deaths and hospitalizations.

Anaheim makes up 19% of coronavirus cases in Orange County despite only making up 11% of the county's population.

As of Wednesday, a petition for the parks to reopen at a later date has reached over 50,000 signatures.

The petition said reopening before a potential second wave hits would be "irresponsible and greedy."

Before the announcement of the delayed reopening, a union representing park workers

planned to protest the urgent reopening as they said they did not feel safe returning to work.

Last week, the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions, a coalition representing 17,000 Disneyland employees, sent an open letter to California Gov. Gavin Newsom that expressed concern and criticism over the reopening of the parks.

"Unfortunately, despite intensive talks with the company, we are not yet convinced that it is safe to reopen the parks on Disney's rapid timetable," the Coalition of Resort Labor Unions said in the letter.

Newsom orders 19 counties, including Orange, to close indoor businesses

July 1

JORDAN MENDOZA
Asst. Editor
KARINA GUTIERREZ
Reporter

Ahead of Fourth of July weekend, California Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Wednesday that certain sectors, such as bars and restaurants, must close indoor operations in 19 counties, including Orange, effective Thursday.

The action applied to all counties that had been on the state's County Monitoring List for three consecutive days due to an increase in COVID-19 cases. The orders will stay in place for at least three weeks.

"We have, as well, made very clear our concerns around bars operating in the state of California," Newsom said in a press conference today.

Under the umbrella of indoor operations, wineries, movie theaters, family entertainment centers, cardrooms, zoos and museums are ordered to close as well.

Certain state parks will remain open with guidelines in

place to prevent overcrowding and limit visitation.

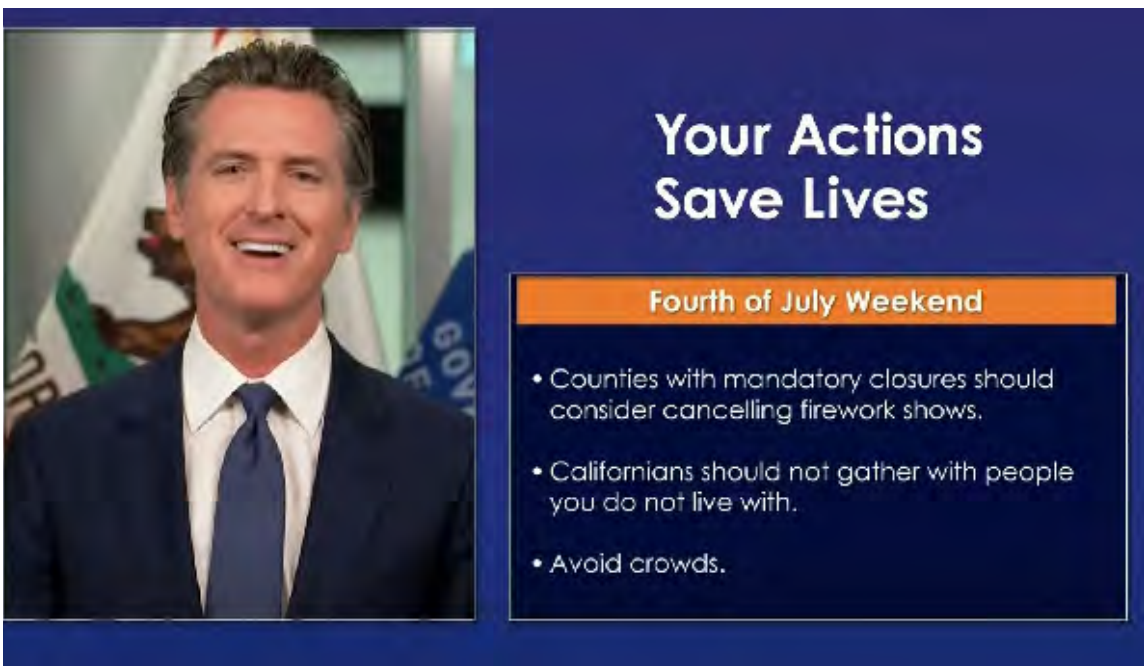
All parking lots at state beaches will be closed through the weekend, and Newsom also recommended that counties with mandated closures should consider canceling any firework shows to avoid crowds.

"(It's) a weekend that has raised a lot of concern from our health officials. We want to, again, remind each and every one of you that if we want to be independent from COVID-19, we have to be much more vigilant in terms of maintaining our physical distancing from others," he said. "Patriotism, at least in a COVID-19 environment, can be expressed a little bit differently with consideration of our independence again from COVID-19."

Newsom emphasized the importance of following guidelines laid out by health officials, such as avoiding crowds and family gatherings, in addition to the use of face coverings.

As of yesterday, California has had 230,764 total cases of COVID-19 and 6,083 deaths, according to the Mercury News.

The OC health Care Agency reported 570 new coronavirus cases and 5 deaths today, bringing the county's cumulative



A screenshot of Gov. Gavin Newsom's virtual press conference on July 1.

DAILY TITAN

total to 14,413 cases as the number of daily positive tests continue to rise.

Orange County currently has the third-highest number of cases out of the 58 counties in the state and has the fourth-highest fatality rate, as reported by the Los Angeles Times.

"While we would prefer not to close bars at this time, many of our neighboring counties have closed their bars, and it's

important to take precautions to ensure the safety of the general public," said OC board of supervisors Chairwoman Michelle Steel, in a press release.

According to a press release from Orange County, the order does not prohibit restaurants or breweries from offering dine-in services, but the establishment must only serve alcohol in the same purchase as a meal.

If the business were to only

serve meals, they must abide by the same guidelines as a restaurant.

"The health and safety of Orange County's residents is paramount," said Andrew Do, the OC board of supervisors vice chairman, in a press release. "We must continue to fight the spread of COVID-19. I encourage all residents and business owners to be extra cautious this holiday weekend."

Suspension of study abroad programs causes disappointment

July 6

JORDAN MENDOZA
Asst. Editor
KARINA GUTIERREZ
Reporter

As Cal State Fullerton students continue to adjust to a new virtual way of life, some had to give up their desires to study abroad as the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage on throughout the world.

Joanna Che, a senior majoring in business administration with a minor in marketing, had enrolled in the seminar in strategic management capstone class for the summer semester, which was offered in a study abroad program in Tokyo and Seoul.

Having always wanted to study abroad, Che said she thought the opportunity she had in 2020 was meant to be, especially because of her interest in Japanese and Korean culture.

But as a result of COVID-19, that dream came to a sudden halt when Jack Hobson, senior director of the Global Titans Center, announced the suspension of all summer study abroad programs on March 18.

On May 15, Hobson announced that all study abroad programs would be suspended through the 2021 winter session.

In late March, when the COVID-19 pandemic was at its peak overseas, the U.S. Bureau of Consular Affairs advised many study abroad students to return to the states. The department reasoned that students may face unpredictable circumstances or travel restrictions, in addition to inadequate healthcare.

At the same time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided guidance to institutions of higher education, asking the institutions to consider postponing or canceling student travel programs. Since the pandemic's peak earlier in the year, most Asian countries had closed their borders to foreigners.

Only recently have some countries, such as Japan, been careful in their selections of travelers and additionally require a 14-day quarantine. Europe has also reinstated a travel ban on most Americans with some exceptions, which will continue indefinitely.

Hobson said that the decision was made very early on for summer and fall to ensure the protection of the students based on three filters: health, mobility and finances. He added that the

department is currently working on retrieving any refunds for students who did not receive any reimbursements from an institution overseas.

Che said that she was sad for the first two months and then had felt regret because she had not taken the opportunity to study abroad last fall. Initially, Che applied and was accepted to the study abroad program in Korea for the fall semester in 2019, which included her required capstone class, but she decided to wait until the summer.

Her decision led to her dropping the class during the spring semester, which resulted in a delayed graduation and an extra \$2,000 to take the class in the summer at CSUF.

"I was really looking forward to experiencing the world with a group of new people because I feel like I've been stuck in a bubble this whole entire time being at Cal State Fullerton," Che said.

In place of the trip to Asia, Che's class has been held online with Lorenzo Bizzi, associate professor of management and director of the Business Honors Program, who has taught study abroad for two years at CSUF.

Bizzi said in an email to the Daily Titan that the high levels of involvement, engagement and

enthusiasm makes study abroad the most intense experience a student will have while they pursue their bachelor's degree.

"There's no point at making students memorize concepts they'll forget. You need to change the way they think. You need to energize them towards business. The experience is so rich that when everyone comes back all they want to do is to become internationally successful managers," Bizzi said. "To explore, to learn, to grow."

He added that when students come back from abroad, they are eager to graduate and begin their careers because while doing the program, students learn what it means to be a successful international business person.

"Many that came back told me it was the best time they had in their entire life," Bizzi said. "Some told me they are positive they will never in the future have something like this. It's a one in a lifetime experience."

Alex Diaz, a senior majoring in management, said he found himself in a similar situation as Che, except he had previously studied abroad with Bizzi in the winter before last in London, Paris and Rome.

Diaz said that even with the class session they would have on their trip, being able to explore

with his best friend, his classmates and Bizzi is what made it so memorable.

"We would just constantly go out and have so much fun. We always had an amazing time," Diaz said. "I got to become good friends with the rest of the other crew, and then we all started just going out and having fun together."

Hobson said that much of the future of study abroad programs relies heavily on how the fall semester will play out in terms of COVID-19 and virtual instruction.

The department will also be evaluating the challenges that the new coronavirus will present in the future, and as more information is developed it will be easier to formulate those decisions in response, Hobson said.

He said that he knows that there is no substitute for the traditional study abroad experience, but the global engagement team, the group of people in the department that handles study abroad, is trying to give students a different type of experience.

"Students are still hungry and interested for those global experiences. So, we're in the process of pivoting and launching a whole suite of virtual opportunities," Hobson said.

Petition pushes for CSUF tuition reduction ahead of virtual semester

July 7

ANTHONY ROBLEDO
Volunteer

A petition for Cal State Fullerton to lower tuition costs for the primarily-online fall 2020 semester has reached over 7,000 signatures as of Tuesday night.

A Change.org user named Isabel Tovar started the petition on Thursday. Tovar wrote in the petition that students were concerned about tuition costs remaining the same, despite their education being drastically different.

“We are in no way blaming Cal State University, Fullerton for the pandemic; however, we would like to ask if the University can waive some of the campus-based fees and

lower the tuition cost,” the petition description reads. “We are not using all of the resources that we are paying for in our tuition. Therefore, it would only be fair to have us pay for the resources that we are actually using.”

Michael Uhlenkamp, the senior director of public affairs, said on behalf of the California State Universities that virtual instruction is actually more expensive than in-person classes. Tuition revenue will go to training faculty and staff to adapt to a virtual environment, updating curriculum, converting materials to digital formats and investing in additional necessary hardware and software.

“Tuition revenue is absolutely critical to this semester and any other semester,” Uhlenkamp said. “The state has already passed a budget that reduces funding to the CSU by \$300 million. Further

reductions in revenue could result in drastic changes to programmatic offerings.”

President Fram Virjee has not yet responded to a request to comment on the petition.

The petition description also includes a breakdown of the fees for the fall 2020 semester, which includes the tuition fee of \$2,871 and the on-campus fees of \$605.12. It also breaks down each fee that accumulates the total amount, from the Student Success Fee of \$201.34 to the Health Facilities Fee of \$3.33.

“I signed the petition because I know that the amount of fees that were charged could literally be the difference between someone having rent and not having rent,” said Alex Corey, a fourth-year theatre student at CSUF. “I also know that a lot of the fees that were charged are for services that a lot of

students, if not all students, aren’t going to use.”

Corey said he was not surprised that the petition has many signatures. When he first saw the petition he said he was hopeful that the university would make a decision on adjusting costs, but was sad to know they have not.

“I know that they need to make money and that they need to recoup their losses, but at the same time they need to put their students first, especially since, ultimately, we are the ones that are going to be having this college experience,” Corey said. “I like to think that part of the college experience isn’t getting gauged out of your money.”

“I was surprised that this petition existed in the first place because I would have never thought that people would actually band together to try to lower the tuition,” said Coby Sobrepena, an incoming freshman

at CSUF. “I think it’s good people are voicing their opinions on what’s happening at the school.”

Sobrepena said his parents are frustrated with having to pay the full tuition despite him being unable to access everything they’re paying for.

Daniel Ramirez, a CSUF sophomore majoring in human resource management, said he had already attended CSUF virtually before the pandemic, so his education did not change. However, he still sympathized with those who had to transition to online learning.

Ramirez said he did not sign the petition because he felt it ultimately would not impact tuition costs.

“I just don’t feel like it will make a difference to be honest, because they’re not going to look at that and say, ‘Oh, let’s lose money because they are signing a petition,’” Ramirez said.

Over 4,000 students to return to campus during fall semester; Titan Student Centers to remain closed

July 13

JESSICA BENDA
Editor

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, it is no surprise that Cal State Fullerton will look exceptionally different in the fall semester.

According to the university’s campus plans for fall 2020, an estimated 4,458 students and 289 faculty are planning to attend in-person classes in the fall — just a portion of the over 40,000 student population. Accompanying the students will be approximately 93 staff members and technicians, as well as 16 athletics personnel.

Theater, music, sports, art and lab classes make up the bulk of 239 on-campus courses and learning activities. On-campus classes will make up only 2.2%

of the 10,367 fall courses, the rest of which will be offered online as part of CSUF’s majority virtual semester.

In an effort to combat the chaos of last semester’s sudden online transition, all faculty have submitted a plan regarding how they would switch online should in-person courses be abruptly canceled in the fall.

Through the pandemic, athletes have been among the most affected student groups with the cancellation of spring sports. According to the campus plan, Titan Athletics is implementing safety guidelines and education for the fall to allow a “step-by-step progression in support of a return to training, coupled with a cycled phase of sport return.”

“There will be limited in-person instructional skills activities along with a reduction in hours, including a guided and controlled progression back to full athletics,” the campus plan reads. While sports will still

have in-person sessions, time on campus for coaches and staff this semester will be reduced by 87.4% from fall 2019, while student-athlete hours will be reduced by 50.6%, according to the campus plan.

As for facilities on campus, ASI Director Keya Allen said that the Titan Student Union, Student Recreation Center and Children’s Center are not planning to open their physical doors for the fall semester. However, she said that it is subject to change.

“It changes every single day,” Allen said. “In order for us to open these buildings, it’s really going to have to be we’re looking at the state and federal law, the CSU regulations, and whether or not we can reduce the risk of this virus.”

The Children’s Center is currently serving 133 families with virtual classes, while the SRC has been holding virtual fitness classes, Allen said.

Pollak Library will remain closed with limited exceptions through the fall semester, according to an email from library Dean Emily Bonney to faculty on June 30. However, Bonney said that the first floor of the north side will be open to CSUF students as a study area, but will be limited to 150 students should the plan be approved.

“There will be no computers, no printers, and seats must be reserved according to a system still under development. We will not provide any library services. Two (campus security officers) will monitor entrance to the area and ensure compliance with public health directives,” Bonney said in the email.

Physical materials, such as books and DVDs, will be picked up at the south entrance, she said.

Up to 561 students will live in single bedrooms in campus housing, but final occupancy is subject to change, said Larry

Martin, executive director of housing and residential engagement. At maximum capacity, residents will only make up 27% of the fall 2019 housing capacity one year prior, which housed 2,045 residents.

The Gastronome, the residential dining facility, is planning on opening with modifications. Self-service will be replaced with staff-served or grab-and-go stations, and COVID-19 safety regulations in regard to food preparation and cleaning will be added.

Additional safety regulations will be employed by the entirety of the campus. A COVID-19 safety coordinator has been appointed and will address health screening, personal hygiene, personal protective equipment, physical distancing and enhanced cleaning, according to the campus plan.

The fall semester begins on Aug. 17, and the first day of classes will be on Aug. 22.



OMAR SANCHEZ / DAILY TITAN